

application is respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

REMARKS

I. Summary of the Office Action and this Reply

Claims 1-36 are pending in the application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter in claims 2-9 and 34-35, and the Examiner's allowance of claims 10-32. Claims 1, 33 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,061,738 to Osaku et al. ("Osaku").

II. Response to 102 Rejections

In paragraph 3 of the Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 33 and 36 in view of Osaku. The rejection is traversed.

The Present Invention

The present invention is directed to a computer implemented method and apparatus for retrieving files in a network. With respect to claims 1, 33 and 36, a logical reference in a parent file is associated with a logical point of access, e.g. a hyperlink, displayable by a web browser and selectable by a user. See specification, page 7, lines 7-13; page 10, line 23 - page 11, line 2.

U.S. Patent No. 6,061,738 to Osaku et al.

Osaku discloses accessing a file accessible at a network URL through a pre-assigned Simplified Network Address (SNA) corresponding to the URL. Accordingly, Osaku teaches a method and system providing easier network file/Web page access because persons wanting to access the file/page need only manually input (e.g. type) the SNA, thereby avoiding the need to know and manually input (e.g. type) the entire electronic address (URL). See Osaku, Abstract. Accordingly, a user need not know or remember a lengthy URL character string (which is non-intuitive and/or arbitrary and therefore difficult to know or remember), which is critical when manually typing or otherwise manually providing input on a character-by-character basis. Osaku, col. 4, lines 41-45; col. 5, lines 35-39 and lines 55-56; col. 23, lines 13-21. Instead, the user need only know, remember, and provide a short SNA. The short SNA typed/provided by the user is resolved to a URL, which is then used to access a corresponding file.

Argument

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 33 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Osaku.

A rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is proper only if each and every element of the claim is found in a single prior art reference. MPEP § 2131.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion in paragraph 3 of the Action, Osaku provides no disclosure whatsoever of "selecting, at the client, a hyperlink that is a logical point of access to a file" (claim 1) or "detecting a user's selection of a parent

file's hyperlink to a desired file" (claims 33, 36). In fact, Osaku provides no disclosure whatsoever of any hyperlink.

A hyperlink is not analogous to an SNA, which is defined by Osaku to include alphanumeric characters, codes, etc. that are input by a user. Col. 4, lines 12-20.

Selecting a hyperlink is not analogous to providing an SNA. The SNA reduces, relative to a URL, the number of characters that must be remembered and manually input by a user. Hyperlinks do not require a user to manually input or remember any characters. Instead, the user can visually select the hyperlink from a display, e.g. of a web page. An SNA is analogous, if at all, to a logical reference of the present invention.

Moreover, Osaku provides no disclosure whatsoever of a logical reference contained in a parent file (claims 1, 33 and 36). It is inherent to the web browser environment that display of a hyperlink in a web browser is caused by interpretation of a web page file, namely, the parent file, and that when the hyperlink is selected, the browser looks to the associated code of that same web page file. Accordingly, the parent file, which includes the logical reference and any physical reference that may be matched with the logical reference, is the HTML or other source file used by a Web browser to display the user-selectable hyperlink (logical point of access) to a desired file. The parent files or web page source files of Osaku are exactly the same as conventional web page source files.

As set forth in the application, a hyperlink in accordance with the present invention appears in a Web browser in the usual fashion. Page 10, lines 23-24. As is well known in the prior art, a web page file includes a URL (physical reference)

and HTML or other coding for displaying a hyperlink associated with the URL, and a web browser interprets the HTML or other coding to display the hyperlink. In accordance with the present invention, the hyperlink is not associated with a URL in the web page file (referred to as the "parent file"). Instead, the hyperlink is associated with a logical reference in the parent file. Page 10, line 24 - page 11, line 2; page 11, lines 8-9. When a user selects a hyperlink (displayed by a web browser by interpreting the parent file), a server selection program identifies the corresponding logical reference in the parent file, and selects an appropriate server and/or URL that is used to retrieve the file. page 11, line 25 - page 12, line 14; page 12, line 23 - page 13, line 5. Accordingly, the parent file, which includes the logical reference and any physical reference that may be matched with the logical reference, is the HTML or other file used by a Web browser to display the user-selectable hyperlink (logical point of access) to a desired file. Osaku provides no disclosure whatsoever of a logical reference contained in a parent file.

In Osaku, the SNA is provided by a user, and is not contained in a parent file. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion in paragraph 3 of the Action, a database is not a parent file. A parent file is interpretable to display the hyperlink and/or a web page. A database is not interpretable, e.g. by a web browser, to display a hyperlink. Additionally, Osaku provides no disclosure whatsoever of a logical reference in a parent file corresponding to an electronic address (e.g. URL) in a parent file.

For at least these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 33 and 36 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe claims 1-36 to be patentable and the application in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If any issues remain, the undersigned request a telephone interview prior to the issuance of an action.

Respectfully submitted,



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